



February 28, 2017

Devlin Piplic, Director of Facilities  
Monroe School District  
200 E Fremont St  
Monroe, WA 98272-2336

Karen Rosencrans, Principal  
Sky Valley Education Center  
351 Short Columbia St  
Monroe, WA 98272

John Mannix, Assistant Superintendent, Operations  
Monroe School District  
200 E Fremont St  
Monroe, WA 98272-2336

Subject: **RESTRICTED ACCESS TO GYM BUILDING AND ROOM F**  
School Environmental Health and Safety Complaint Investigation  
Name of School: Sky Valley Education Center  
Location: 351 Short Columbia Street, Monroe, Washington 98272

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our office received an electronic response from Monroe Public Schools on February 23, 2017, regarding the mandatory quarterly follow-up testing at Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC). The follow-up testing is part of the Monroe Public School's May 25, 2016 Corrective Action Plan for SVEC.

PBS Environmental conducted the quarterly testing and released a report on February 1, 2017. Seven of the rooms that were tested during the PCB air sampling indicated levels in excess of established exposure limits.

- Room F: 42,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- Gathering Place – East: 14,000 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- Small Gym: 4,700 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- Girl's Locker room: 6,300 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- Girl's Locker room storage: 640 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- Electrical room of Small Gym: 360 ng/m<sup>3</sup>
- CTE room: 230 ng/m<sup>3</sup>

In their report, PBS Environmental contends that contamination of the samples occurred and subsequent retesting in these areas by PBS showed no detectable PCB levels. However, in recognition of the severity of the exceedances, coupled with a lack of detailed and thorough follow-up, the Snohomish Health District is requiring that the above spaces be **closed** to students until EPA required retesting is conducted and the rooms are cleared. WAC 246-366-140 states, "the existence of unsafe conditions which present a potential hazard to occupants of the school are in violation of these regulations."

While it may be likely these spaces are safe and the earlier tests were adversely influenced through some unknown error, it is in the interest of student health and safety that compels this action until verifiable and comprehensive follow-up is completed.

I am available to answer any questions at 425.339.8781.

Sincerely,



Jefferson Ketchel, MA, RS  
Director, Environmental Health Division

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JK/AZ:jg

cc by email only: Nancy Bernard, Washington State Department of Health  
Dr. Fredrika Smith, Superintendent, Monroe School District No. 103  
Michelle Mullen, EPA Region 10  
Nancy Beaudet, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit  
Lauren Jenks, Washington State Department of Health  
Dr. Gary Goldbaum, Snohomish Health District  
Kendall Moore, EPA Region 5